

APPLE BARRELS WILL PROBABLY BE PLENTIFUL

THERE is not likely to be a shortage of apple barrels this fall. Coopers have apparently been able to make better arrangements than they did last year and to lay in larger supplies. In a number of sections the apple crop will not be as heavy as it was last year, which will also have an effect on the supply of barrels.

While it is not likely the exorbitant prices will be asked this season that were in many instances late last fall, the general price will probably be fully as high if not a little higher. This is indicated by reports that have been received by *The Horticulturist* from many sections of the province.

The Sutherland, Innes Co., of Chatham, the largest dealers in cooperage stock in the province, believe that the coopers will be able to supply the demand for apple barrels this fall in good shape, as they have secured their stock early, and in most cases bought a very high grade.

"It seems to be the general opinion of the apple shippers," writes Mr. Fleming, the secretary-treasurer of the company, "that a really first-class barrel is required, consequently the coopers are buying mill run and number one staves almost entirely, instead of number twos, as in former years, the latter having been used almost exclusively up to the last year or two. We do not expect that the price of apple barrels will be as high as last year, in fact, we know of contracts which have already been taken at 45 and 50 cents for apple barrels, which is very reasonable, considering the class of barrel which is being put up. We believe that the average price for apple barrels this year will be about 50 cents in Canada and about the same in the United States."

AVERAGE PRICE 45 CENTS.

A large dealer in the vicinity of Trenton, Mr. W. H. Matthews, reports as follows: "I do not think the shortage of barrels will be as great this year as last. I cut my own stock, and will have twice as much as last

season, so will be prepared to furnish all the barrels that may be required in this section. The price will be 45 to 50 cents each, but 45 cents will probably be the ruling figure."

WHAT THE GROWERS SAY.

Many growers have already ordered their supplies. Among the growers heard from are the following:

I have ordered 800 barrels for my stock this year, paying about 45 cents each for them. I have never used boxes, but believe they would be more satisfactory and cheaper.—(W. H. Walter, Brighton, Ont.)

I will pack all my apples in 30-inch barrels and have secured my supply for the coming season. The cost for barrels will likely run over 40 cents each, as cooperage stock is going to be scarce, judging by the price the larger mills are quoting. The cost will be 37 cents per barrel, not counting the cost of making.—(Wm. Keideman, Shakespeare, Ont.)

I prefer barrels, as heretofore they have been less expensive than boxes, easier to handle in gathering the fruit, and much easier to pack. I fear packing material is going to be very expensive.—(R. L. Scott, Port Hope, Ont.)

ARE COSTING MORE.

Barrels are costing 10 cents each more this year than they were at this time last year. I cannot say whether the demand for barrels is likely to exceed the supply or not. There is plenty of stock to be had, but I understand the manufacturers have not been able to get their stock out fast on account of so much wet weather.—(W. M. Ellis, Whitby, Ont.)

I have placed an order for about 1,000 barrels at 40 cents each, delivered in the orchard. Last season the price per barrel ranged from 35 cents to 70 cents. I do not anticipate the same difficulty securing barrels this season as last.—(W. J. Page, Bowmanville, Ont.)